

**REMARKS**

The subject matter of the present application relates to a novel plant protein, referred to as NAC1, to the genes that encode the NAC1 protein and to plants and plant cells transformed so that they overexpress that protein. NAC1 protein belongs to a family of proteins that are involved in patterning of the shoot and floral meristem.

Entry of the foregoing amendments and the prompt and favorable reconsideration are respectfully requested. Applicant submits that the claims as presently amended are in condition for allowance, and respectfully asks that a notice to that effect be issued. If additional issues are raised by the present amendments, Applicant's Representative respectfully requests the courtesy of a telephone call so that those issues can be dealt with in an expeditious manner.

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By



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